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## SERVICE

## NEWS

ISSUED FOR THE STAFF OF THE SOIL CONSERVATION  
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June 14, 1941

No. 18



By now, most everyone in the Service must have done a lot of thinking and developed some definite ideas about national defense. That's a good thing. It will mean much--a great deal more than we now realize, perhaps--in shaping the course of future events. The defense of this nation is not the defense of something abstract but something exceedingly personal and real--our homes, our work, our personal ambitions, and our individual way of life--things that belong to us and mean more to each of us than all the hollow phrases in the world.

It was by being active, not passive, that we got them in the first place. We will keep them by being active, not passive, in their defense. As an organization, the SCS is doing its best to be an active force in defense, but the organization is made up of individuals, so it is up to you

Believing that discussion stimulates thinking, and that accurate information is necessary to both, a number of discussion meetings on defense have been held in SCS offices throughout the country

The purpose of these meetings was to stimulate interest on the part of everyone

and to summarize the situation on the basis of the best available information. We say "best available" because there is so much information on so many aspects of the defense picture that no one has yet been able to collect it all in one place. As employees of the Government and as private citizens, however, we know you want to have as much information and as many of the facts as possible.

Service News will try to help you get what you want--but it's up to you to ask. Send in your questions, and we'll do our level best to give you accurate answers--not opinions, but the best factual information available.

To many of the questions that have been asked recently, there simply are no factual answers. Some of these questions, for example, relate to policy: "Why don't we do something about scrap iron exports to Japan?" Others concern conditions in European countries: "Is Germany running short on oil, wheat, meat, milk?" and "What are the chances of an uprising in Poland?" There are plenty of opinions on such questions, but no statistics. All we can do is try to get a statement from the most authoritative source--and tell you, when we answer, what that source is.

In other words, we will try to answer any question for which an answer is available in Washington. We'll serve as reporter and tell you where the information we print comes from. But you have got to do the asking!

(Continued on page 3)

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## MORE SCS MEN CALLED FOR MILITARY SERVICE

We think we have said enough when we tell you that here is the latest list of SCS employees called to military service:

WASHINGTON, D. C.: George P. Danenhauer, Selective Service; Robert C. Davies, Selective Service; Robert D. McCullough, Selective Service; Joseph F. Santon, Selective Service.

REGION I: James A. McGuire; James P. Schwartz, 1st Lt. FA-Res.

REGION II: Lawrence Ennis, Jr., 1st Lt. FA-Res; Thomas Henry Garrett, 2nd Lt. Engr-Res; James C. Gwynn, Jr., Selective Service; William D. Richardson, 1st Lt. Inf-Res- Allen B. Rowlett, Selective Service; Gilmer P. Smith, 1st Lt. CACorps Res; Henry T. Stanley, 1st Lt. Engr-Res; Arthur D. Williamson, 1st Lt. Inf-Res.

REGION III: Robert M. Beatty; John W. Parrish; Edward T. Sanford, 2nd Lt. QM-Res.

REGION IV: Harold R. Burdett, Selective Service; Rex. E. Burke; John T. O'Brien, 1st Lt. CA-Res; Emil Stuter, 1st Lt. Engr-Res.

REGION V: Max M. Bernstein; William G. Davis, Capt. Engr-Res; Clarence M. Olson; Elburn H. Schaefer.

REGION VI: Mott R. Duncan, 1st Lt. FA-Res; Lott T. Rogers, Capt. Inf-Res; Victor C. Walden.

REGION VII: Mathew C. Biever, National Guard; Eric F. Engbrecht, National Guard; Maxwell M. Finke, 1st Lt. CA-Res; Clifford D. Sanders, 1st Lt. Inf-Res; Ivan J. Weaber, Capt. CA-Res.

(Continued in next column)

## OFFER RENT REDUCTION ON EXPERIMENTAL PROJECT

Because they are convinced that the experiment conducted at the Las Posas (Cal.) Experimental Project is well worthwhile, the Berylwood Investment Company has offered a reduction of \$500 in the annual rental of the land. In writing to Conservator Reddick, Richard Bard, vice president of the investment company says, "I believe that the efforts made by the Conservation Service to get farmers to practice contour tillage, rotate crops, utilize mulch and other practices, are beginning to bear fruit and trust that it will be possible now to continue the Las Posas experiment to its logical conclusion."

## LIKES USDA PUBLICATION

"I want all my seniors who are finishing in vocational agriculture this year and expect to be teaching agriculture in the future to have a copy of 'Working Plans for Permanent Farms,'" Dr. W. G. Crandall, in charge of the Teacher-Trainee Department at Clemson College, S. C., commented recently.

In requesting copies of this USDA miscellaneous publication, Dr. Crandall told George Meares, district conservationist of the Upper Savannah district, S. C., that he considered it "one of the best publications that an experienced agricultural worker could have at his disposal."

REGION VIII: Vincent H. Anderson, Selective Service; Henry T. Daniel; Roy H. Mayeda, Selective Service; George L. Sherman; Donald L. Vance.

REGION IX: Walter J. Kennelly, Walter G. Stoneman, Selective Service.

REGION X: Oke Eckholm; Carl Henry Elges, Jr., Major CA-Res, Adrin M. Fickes, Selective Service; Myron E. Phinney.

## OHIO IS 42ND STATE TO ENACT DISTRICT LAW

Ohio became the forty-second State to enact a law authorizing farmers to organize soil conservation districts last week when the Governor signed the bill following its passage by overwhelming majorities in both houses of the State legislature. The bill was approved in both houses on the same day--May 16-- by votes of 112 to 1 in the House and 29 to 1 in the Senate.

In Delaware, districts legislation met with a "pocket veto" because the Governor failed to sign the bill after it had passed in the House by a vote of 22 to 9 and in the Senate by 10 to 6.

## REGION 7 RECOMMENDS

When Region 7's Special Committee on National Defense drafted recommendations at their Lincoln conference they included the statement, "That Washington publications such as Service News and Soil Conservation include information on National Defense activities that will help field personnel to become better informed." We've been thinking along the same line. We began in our May 23 issue with some questions and answers on defense and we continue in the present issue.

## WASHINGTON CORRESPONDENT

(Continued from page 1)

There are a lot of things you and I want to do with our lives some day--things we just haven't gotten around to yet--personal dreams and ambitions. We don't want anything to interfere with them if we can prevent it. One of the best ways to help prevent it is to do some thinking right now about the threat that confronts us all and what it means.

So we urge you to ask questions--send them in to Service News. We're here to help if you'll give us the chance.

## FIRST AID TRAINING IS POPULAR DEFENSE COURSE

Harold M. Salmon, head of the Investigation Section, has started off defense activities in the Washington office with a class in Red Cross First Aid Training. Instructor Salmon has been putting his thirty students through the paces with practical demonstrations in bandaging, artificial respiration, traction splinting, and all the other phases of a first class human repair job.

Members of the class expect to be able to pass tests within another week for Red Cross First Aid certificates. One member of the class, Mrs. Etta Rogers, had a chance to demonstrate her practical knowledge recently when she, as an early arrival at the scene of a wreck, rendered first aid to the injured.

News of the interesting and practical work which the class is doing has circulated around the Washington office and requests have been made that the course be repeated.

## INTER-AGENCY GROUP

The inter-agency group which will consider the general problems of USDA programs in the Northern Great Plains has been selected. Under the chairmanship of Elmer A. Starch, the committee membership will include J. L. Lantow, SCS, Albuquerque, N. Mex.; J. S. McCorkle, SCS, Amarillo, Tex.; B. W. Allred, SCS, Lincoln, Nebr.; P. V. Woodhead, FS, Albuquerque, N. Mex.; M. H. Saunderson, FS, Ogden, Utah; and H. A. Steele, DAE, Lincoln, Nebr. The over-all committee for the Department was announced in the May 23 issue of Service News.

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Districts are growing rapidly in Illinois. About 700,000 acres have been voted into districts in that State within the last 4 months.



## BUDGET DIVISION WOMEN LAUNCH RED CROSS CHAPTER

The women of the Washington Budget and Finance Division have responded to the "call for action" made in the President's Unlimited National Emergency Proclamation and to the "appeal for aid" by the American Red Cross.

Together with some of the wives of men in the Division, they met on June 2 and launched a Red Cross chapter in order to participate actively in the work of that organization. Mrs. Ethel Clark of national Red Cross headquarters explained the role of the American Red Cross in the national defense program.

Mrs. Selma Walters was chosen chairman of the Division's chapter and arrangements were made for the issuance of sewing and knitting materials. Members are now engaged in earning their Red Cross Service Pins which are awarded for 40 production hours of work. Arrangements have been made to use the Red Cross sewing room at the Chapter House, 1730 E Street, N.W., on Thursday evenings when instructors will help the novices in sewing and knitting.

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Contour farming has become so popular in Wayne County, Iowa, that a week was set aside and designated as "Wayne County Contour Week" by the Wayne County Soil Improvement Association. Directors of the Association, who had received training in laying out contour lines at four previous demonstration schools, conducted 16 training schools which were attended by 142 farmers during contour week.

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John Dreier, head of the Education Section, Information Division, has resigned to accept a position in the Division of American Republics in the State Department. Mr. Dreier's duties as head of the Education Section have been taken over by Glenn Rule.

## BRAZILIAN IS SCS GUEST TO STUDY SOIL EROSION

Paulo Cuba de Souza, manager of the experimental farm of the Instituto Agronomico de Campinas at Sao Paulo, Brazil, arrived recently in the United States and will spend from 6 months to a year in studying soils and erosion control in this country.

At the present time, Mr. Cuba is the guest of SCS. He will leave Washington this week to go to Spartanburg, S. C., where he will enroll in the orientation training course. This summer he will become a student in E. A. Norton's soil classification and mapping course at Texas A. and M. College. After summer school Mr. Cuba plans to make an inspection trip through Regions 2 and 4, where land conditions are most nearly like those in his own country.

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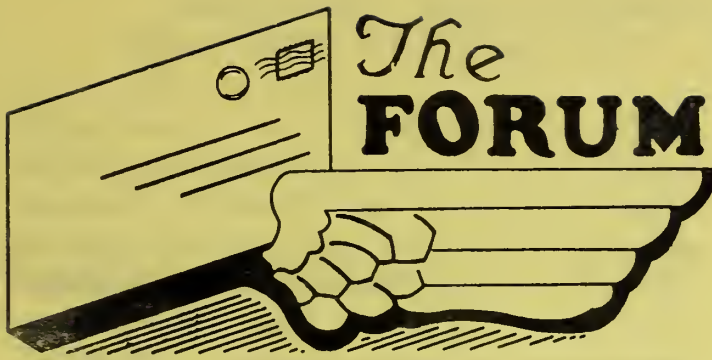
Henry G. Herrell, formerly head of the Budget Section, Division of Budget and Finance, has been transferred to the position of Senior Administrative Officer in the office of F. J. Hopkins, Assistant Chief, Administration. H. Burke Fry, Assistant Head of the Accounts Section, has been appointed to the position vacated by Mr. Herrell.

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Publishers have accepted two manuscripts recently written by Wellington Brink, editor of *Soil Conservation*. *Nature Magazine* will publish an article on plant introductions entitled "Soil Defenders from Overseas," and in *Better Crops* will appear the story of kudzu under the heading, "Mender of Tattered Lands."

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H. C. Mesch, head of the Safety and Health Section, addressed the Farm Safety Conference at Seattle, Wash., on May 22 on the subject, "Observations of Potential Accident Causes in SCS Farm Contacts."



## WATCH OUT, TECHNICIANS!

DEAR EDITOR Accidents to Service personnel are nearly always mystifying. Examined in retrospect, it is difficult to understand why any of them should have happened. We all know better. Safety is blazoned by posters and discussed in meetings and by letter.

Safety is the policy--but where is the practice?

We are constantly being forewarned--why then are we not completely forearmed?

Nevertheless--

Thirty-two percent of our motor vehicle accidents during March involved vehicles being operated by technical or supervisory personnel. The amount of time lost from work, the reduced income, the additional expenses incurred, and the physical suffering from one serious injury should be sufficient to make each member of our technical and supervisory staff resolve to drive carefully and to avoid any accident which might even be caused by another person's carelessness.

A technician recently sustained a serious back injury driving a Government vehicle. He will probably be in a cast for eight weeks.

Driving a Chevrolet coach 30 miles per hour on a road with no obstructions to visibility and practically no traffic, he met a road maintainer and drove near the right shoulder to avoid the loose dirt. He failed to see a hole in the shoulder of

the fill caused by dirt sloughing away over a culvert.

Several other accidents that could have been prevented by our staff officers were caused by traveling too closely behind private vehicles and not having the Government vehicles under sufficiently good control.

A truck piled 11 feet from the ground with grass seed was loaded at a nursery and overturned enroute because it was top-heavy. Grass seed weighing 100 pounds to the sack was placed on top of other seed weighing 45 to 55 pounds to the sack.

On May 10 here in Washington was held the 10th Annual School Safety Patrol Parade, sponsored by the American Automobile Association. Approximately 300,000 boys and girls are enrolled in the Patrol. They safeguard over 8,000,000 classmates enroute to and from school. Rules learned in the classroom for safe walking are applied by patrol members at the necessary locations. The traffic fatality rate for persons 5 to 14 years of age has dropped 37 percent since 1922.

How about our own professional, administrative and supervisory people? Are we doing as good a job in motor vehicle accident prevention as we know how? Or can we take a tip from the patrol boys and girls, and do better?

H. C. Mesch

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R. E. Uhland of the Washington office was in Region 5, May 1 to 3, to discuss research work on conservation practices in project and camp areas. He met with research men in Minnesota and Wisconsin at La Crosse May 1 to 2 to outline observation work under the supervision of the research phase of the program. At a meeting in the regional office on May 3 he outlined the results of research of cooperative farms in the Bethany and Shenandoah projects.



## IOWA OBSERVES "SOIL CONSERVATION WEEK"

June 2 to 7 was designated as "Soil Conservation Week" in Iowa. In honor of the occasion, the Chief was guest speaker at Red Oak on June 5 and at Fairfield on June 6.

In his proclamation designating the week for special observance, Governor George A. Wilson stated that "Iowa people are to be highly commended for their fine response to the appeal for practical efforts at soil conservation embodied in law 2 years ago authorizing cooperation in conservation districts."

## POISON IVY, BUT---

Senior Foreman Hovie G. Tooley of the SCS-CCC camp at Clemson, S. C., recently began a safety talk on poison ivy before a group of enrollees as follows

"Boys, the sun is getting warmer, the little green leaves are putting out, and the sap is rising. The world is getting mighty pretty, but boys there is one plant that we have all learned to dread in the spring of the year. What is that we dread so much? Anybody answer?"

"Kudzu!" replied one of the enrollees sitting up in front of the group. For three weeks he and other enrollees at the Clemson camp had been kept busy planting kudzu seedlings. The camp had received 600,000 seedlings for planting in three counties.

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A new apparatus for measuring air humidity, inexpensive to build and operate, yet accurate in its results, was described by Dr. C. W. Thornthwaite before the American Geophysical Union.

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"Contour Fencing" by F. E. Charles, Chief of Region 3's Information Division, appears in the June *Successful Farming*.

## AGRICULTURAL ENGINEERS WILL MEET AT KNOXVILLE

The American Society of Agricultural Engineers will hold its annual meeting at Knoxville, Tenn., June 23 to 26. Several members of SCS will appear on the program of the Soil and Water Conservation Division of the Society. Those scheduled to talk and their subjects are M. L. Nichols, "Farm Machinery and Soil Conservation"; E. A. Schlaudt, "Terrace Construction with Small Equipment"; James H. Lillard, "Run-off Rates from Corn, Wheat, and Hay Plots on 5 to 25 Percent Slopes"; C. E. Ramser, "Research Studies of the Hydrologic Division, Soil Conservation Service"; A. E. Brandt, "The Design of Plot Experiments for Measurement of Runoff and Erosion"; H. S. Riesbol, "Report of Committee on Hydrology"; R. L. Stevens, "Flood Control"; J. M. Downing, "Plowing for Terrace Maintenance"; and R. B. Hickok, "A Survey of Requirements for Hydrologic Information by Agricultural Engineers." I. D. Mayer and H. S. Riesbol, chairman and vice chairman of the Division, will preside at the meetings.

## YOUR PART IN DEFENSE

Because of the great interest these days in all matters of national defense, and particularly in the part SCS employees can play, Service News proposes to report regularly on the things employees are doing -- either on their own initiative or in cooperation with organizations affiliated with the Office of Civilian Defense -- for defense.

The reports will appear under the heading "What Are YOU Doing for Defense?" The things you and your friends do may be helpful as suggestions to others who are anxious to play their part. So, if you'll keep us posted on your civilian defense activities, we'll be able to include them in Service News for the benefit of all.

And it will be interesting, too, to see how well the Service is participating in civilian defense.



## ABOUT DEFENSE

WHAT I WANT TO KNOW IS --

*What is the real picture of the food situation in continental Europe? Is there going to be wholesale starvation, or can the continent get along?*

The USDA recently studied this situation and summed it up in the May 27 *Foreign Crops and Markets*. Here is a brief outline of the current state of affairs.

*Central Europe:* Conditions tolerable in Germany and Austria, less satisfactory in Czechoslovakia, serious in Poland. German people still better fed than in last war. Indications that food supply for Polish and Jewish populations deliberately curtailed.

*Italy:* Entered war with small food reserves. Production good and, under present low rations, should serve until next harvest. Heavy exports to Germany, large stocks for the armies, shortage of transportation, hoarding, and high prices are main food difficulties.

*France:* War caused much destruction in occupied zone, the richer agricultural portion, and exodus of refugees to unoccupied zone created acute food problem. Situation made worse by shipments of food to German authorities. Privation will continue until next harvest, when conditions may improve.

*Belgium:* Situation probably most critical on continent. Negotiations with Germany and Russia for imports under way, but outcome uncertain. Without substantial imports, situation likely to be worse next year.

*Denmark:* Situation satisfactory and fair standard of nutrition will be maintained unless Germany interferes.

*Netherlands:* With adjustments in agriculture, situation will be better than Belgium, worse than Denmark.

*Norway:* Unsatisfactory situation will probably grow worse. Whaling, normally important fat source, curtailed. Fish catch reduced. Sugar supply low. Outlook serious with little prospect for improvement.

*Sweden:* Situation relatively good. Rations fairly liberal.

*Finland:* Considerable deficiency of fats, meat, bread grains, fruits, vegetables. Imports will be needed. Fats serious problem.

*Switzerland:* Situation on whole satisfactory. Some imports arriving. Rations liberal.

*Spain:* Agriculture not fully recovered from civil war. Wheat crop in 1940 disappointing. Acute food shortage. Potatoes and most green vegetables completely lacking. Scarcity of sugar and fats.

*Portugal:* Imports holding up, and food situation satisfactory. No rationing so far. Better crops expected in 1941.

*Greece:* Will experience food difficulties now that imports have been cut off. Believe 1941 crops will be below 1940.

*Hungary, Rumania, Yugoslavia, Bulgaria:* Normally self-sufficient. Wheat, rye, barley, oats crops small in 1940, causing considerable restriction in consumption. Nevertheless, exports were made to Axis and will probably continue, even in face of grave shortages in certain localities.

*Soviet Union:* Soviet export possibilities important factor in continental food supply. Extent of promised deliveries depends on 1941 crop, transportation, and political factors. Possibly will make large shipments of foodstuffs, grain, soybeans, and fertilizer. Oilseeds or oil may be shipped through from Far East.

## PRINTERS' INK

"Interpretation of Soil Conservation Data for Field Use" by Dwight D. Smith, project supervisor at Columbia, Mo., in the May *Agricultural Engineering*.

Waldo E. Smith, hydraulic engineer at Washington, discusses in the May *Proceedings, American Society of Civil Engineers*, the paper on "Maximum Probable Floods on Pennsylvania Streams" by Charles F. Ruff which appeared in the September 1940, *Proceedings*. Also in the May issue, Mr. Smith and Robert L. Lowry, Jr. discuss the paper on "reliability of Station-Year Rainfall Frequency Determinations" by Katharine Clarke-Hafstad which was published in the November 1940 issue of the same periodical.

"Velocity Distribution in Open Channels" by Vito A. Vanoni, project supervisor at Pasadena, Calif., in the June *Civil Engineering*.

"The Partridge Pea, *Chamaecrista Fasciculata*, A Promising Plant for Soil Conservation" by Ozell A. Atkins and W. C. Young, agent and horticulturist at Auburn, Ala., in the May *Journal of the American Society of Agronomy*.

The May 15 issue of the *Harper County Journal*, Buffalo, Okla., devotes an 8-page section of the paper to the Harper County Soil Conservation District. Above the masthead of the conservation section, the editor makes the succinct statement, "Mortgages follow the property, and, if soil erosion continues, it will be but a few years until someone has a mortgage on the Gulf of Mexico."

The May issue of *Hawaii Farm and Home* features on its cover a picture of Dr. N. E. Winter, director of SCS in Hawaii. In the magazine's lead article, "Soil Saving Work Covers 2,400 Acres," Dr. Winter discusses conservation activities in Hawaii during the past two years.

## FIELD MEMORANDA

1005 National Defense Employment Procedure. (Summarizes new rules and regulations issued by Civil Service Commission which are applicable to the employment procedures of this Service.)

904-L Military Service. Eligibility Period on Civil Service Registers. (Quotes regulations approved by Civil Service Commission for extension of eligibility on civil service registers for persons who served in the armed forces of the United States.)

740-A Payroll Transfers on Personnel Details. (Amends FM-740 so that for payroll purposes the Area can be considered one location with the work units as portions of that location.)

## OFF THE PRESS

"Irrigation Problems in Citrus Orchards" by C. A. Taylor. *Farmers' Bulletin* No. 1876.

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The Service Library is now receiving the monthly publication called *THE LAND*, issued by Friends of the Land. Many in the Soil Conservation Service may wish to see this publication regularly, and the library will be glad to receive requests.

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The American Association for the Advancement of Science will convene at Durham, N. H., from June 23 to 28 for the first of its two summer meetings. Dr. Bennett has accepted an invitation to be the guest speaker at a banquet meeting on June 26 sponsored by the Association's Section on the Social and Economic Sciences and the Northeastern Section of the American Society of Agronomy. The Chief will speak on "Soil Conservation in the Northeast."